

Vernon Purbaugh. While Matthew does not reside in my district, he and I share a great love of the English language and a great respect of words in general.

Matthew Purbaugh is an amateur published poet; his poem "Noon" appeared in the International Society of Poets' 2006 edition. He was awarded "Outstanding Achievement in Poetry" and Best Amateur Poet. Matthew was recently invited to submit a new work for "Who's Who in American Poetry."

I share his poem "Words" with you today.

WORDS

What is it in a word

That

Can Stir the heart of men

To bring them to do great and

Courageous deeds?

What is it about words.

That,

Let them have the power

To topple empires of stone and steel?

What is it about words,

That,

Let them have the power

To topple empires of stone and steel?

What is it about words,

That

Let them go deeper than the strongest bullet?

What is it about words,

That

Let them hold sway over men

More than their fate

More than the point of a gun?

What is in words?

That

Lets something we have created

Hold sway over us, more than,

Our deepest fears?

And our greatest, Driving Desires?

HONORING DR. MUHAMMAD YUNUS
NOBEL PEACE PRIZE WINNER 2006

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

Dr. Yunus is a visionary in the effort to improve the economies of the developing world. He first began his revolutionary work in 1974 during a widespread famine in his native Bangladesh. Then an economics professor at Chittagong University, Dr. Yunus began experimenting with different ways to help the poor. He struck upon the concept of microcredit, the provision of very small loans to poor individuals to start or improve basic businesses.

Although desperately poor, those to whom Dr. Yunus lent money proved to be dependable clients and could be relied upon to repay their debts. When local banks declined to make small loans of this sort, Dr. Yunus founded the Grameen Bank in order to do it himself. To date, the Grameen Bank has disbursed more than \$5.3 billion to nearly seven million borrowers, most of whom have no collateral.

Dr. Yunus' objective is to rid the world of poverty, and his microcredit concept has indeed showed promising results. Roughly half of Dr. Yunus' clients have achieved basic eco-

nomic objectives: a home with a metal roof; clean drinking water; a sanitary latrine; warm clothes for winter and mosquito netting for summer; about seventy-five dollars in a savings account; and schooling for the children. Upon this foundation, one can envision a world in which the scourge of poverty is banished.

Dr. Yunus' achievements have long been praised; it is fitting that he has finally received the high honor of the Nobel Prize. I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating Dr. Yunus on this occasion.

DIVESTMENT FROM SUDAN

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to share with our colleagues my statement from a press conference I hosted with Congressman DONALD PAYNE, and the Genocide Intervention Network today calling on all state Governors to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. Local students from Langley High School and Westfield High School also participated, and I would like to commend them for being so active on this issue.

Thank you all for coming. Today I join my good friend and congressional colleague Donald Payne in calling on all states to divest from companies doing business in Sudan. I want to especially thank the Sudan Divestment Taskforce and the Genocide Intervention Network for working so hard on this issue. This movement started at UCLA and Swarthmore College and has gained recognition over the last 2 years. I also would like to thank all of the students in attendance. So many young people are embracing this issue. I commend them and urge them to remain vigilant.

For over 20 years the government of Sudan engaged in a brutal civil war with the people of southern Sudan. This conflict took the lives of over 2 million people. During this time slavery flourished and terrorism took root in Sudan. In 2003 a conflict in Sudan's Darfur region broke out. The government reacted by unleashing a war on innocent people and began the genocide. That was 3 years ago. Over 400,000 people have died since and over 2 million continue to be at risk.

I led the first congressional delegation to Darfur. I witnessed the horror these people live with day to day and the impact of decades of war. Just last week the United Nations reported fresh ongoing attacks. There is no question that the government of Sudan orchestrated and continues to direct the genocide in Darfur. In one village, 27 of the people that were killed were children under the age of 12. The United Nations is working to try to get desperately needed U.N. troops on the ground but the government of Sudan continues to reject this deployment.

Targeted divestment from companies doing business in Sudan is an action that can make a difference. The genocide in Sudan can be stopped. Every American can do his or her part. The United States Congress and the president have called it genocide. It is now up to the states to apply economic pressure on the government of Sudan and divest from companies doing business in Sudan. We have seen in the past that the government in Khartoum responds to economic pressure.

Last month I called on my home state of Virginia to divest and a state senator will be

putting forth legislation when the General Assembly returns in January. I hope every state will follow the lead of California, Connecticut, Illinois, Maine, New Jersey and Oregon which have already moved to divest from companies doing business with Sudan. Today we call on the remaining 44 states to do the same.

We encourage all governors to review their state's pension funds and identify companies which are doing the type of business in Sudan that is aiding the government and fulfilling this genocide, not helping the people. We ask that they work with their state legislators to enact legislation to divest from those companies.

California just passed a law last month and its model of targeted divestment limits the scope of companies and investments, providing a good plan for action. We need to send a signal to the government in Khartoum that America and the West will not stand silent in the face of genocide—that the women and children in those camps matter as much to us as our own families.

History will judge our willingness to act.

OCTOBER IS NATIONAL SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 15, 2006

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 people in the United States currently living with Spina Bifida, the most common permanently disabling birth defect. Each October we recognize these Americans during National Spina Bifida Awareness Month and recognize the importance to work year round to advance research, programs, and policies to meet the needs of this important community.

National Spina Bifida Awareness Month is sponsored by the Spina Bifida Association (SBA), which for more than 30 years has helped those living with and affected by this debilitating birth defect. As co-chair of the Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus, I've had the honor to work with my co-chair, Representative CHRIS SMITH, and SBA to advance Spina Bifida awareness, research, and public health efforts in Congress. Founded in 1973, SBA is the Nation's only organization solely dedicated to advocating on behalf of the Spina Bifida community. Through its nearly 60 chapters in more than 125 communities, the SBA brings expectant parents together with those who have a child with Spina Bifida. This interaction helps to answer questions and concerns, but most importantly it lends much needed support and provides hope and inspiration.

Mr. Speaker, Spina Bifida is a birth defect that can happen to anyone. It is a neural tube defect that occurs in the first month of pregnancy when the spinal column does not close completely. Everyday, an average of eight babies are affected by Spina Bifida and approximately 3,000 pregnancies are affected by this birth defect each year. We do not know the exact cause of it, but research found that if a woman takes 400 mcg of folic acid every day before she becomes pregnant, she reduces her risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida or another neural tube defect by as much as 70 percent.

No two cases of Spina Bifida are ever the same. While Spina Bifida typically causes a